

JOSEPH CAGEY AND DICK EDWARDS, PORT TOWNSEND,

AUGUST 1, 1895.

(Interviewed by Wm. Wakeham and Richard Rathbun).

Indian fishermen on Lopex Island (South from San Juan Island). They have 8 nets fishing there.

Q. When do you fish there?

A. We commenced to-day; the salmon run commenced to-day.

Q. When do you generally begin, about the same time?

A. Yes, generally. This is about the time we ordinarily get them. We get them between the last of July -- but we were kind of late this year. To-day and yesterday was the first run we got this year.

Q. Have others been catching fish there?

A. Yes; they have been catching them for about 2 weeks now. They have their nets right alongside of us. We fished right on the point last year in one place, and this new fellow came and we tried to make him fish right alongside of us and he would not do it, and he put his net right in front of us without permission from us.

Q. Do you have to have permission to fish there?

A. No, sir.

Q. Is there an Indian reservation there?

A. No, sir.

Q. How long have the fish run there?

A. It runs heavy about 2 weeks.

Q. And then you stop?

A. It keeps going until the silver side runs.

Q. How long do the silver side keep running?

A. They dont run regular, these salmon; they run separate, a big bunch every other day.

Q. How late do you get them?

A. About in September.

Q. They begin in August?

A. Yes, the last of August.

Q. What fish do you get now?

A. Sockeyes.

Q. Altogether?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Dont get any tyee?

A. No, sir; there is trap on Locust Island gets the tyee.

Q. Do you cut the kelp?

A. Yes, we cut the kelp and put the nets in there.

Q. What is the bottom like?

A. Just -- it is between 17 and 18 fathoms deep.

Q. Is not that pretty deep water to fish with that kind of a net?

A. Yes, sir. At Point Roberts the water is only 10 or 12 feet deep.

Q. You dont get any other salmon but the 2 kinds?

A. Yes, sir; that is all.

Q. These salmon, when they go away from there where do they go?

A. They go through Locust Pass and Deception, and through Haro Pass.

Q. Which way are the fish moving when they strike you?

A. They strike east when they go around the point and go through Lopex, and they go right straight north.

Q. Where is Locust Pass, between Locust Island and San Juan Island?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do they go toward Rosario Straits? Do you know where Rosario Strait is?

A. No, sir.

Q. Do many go up Rosario Straits (referring to map)?

A. Yes, sir; they go all through there.

Q. The fish when you get them come from the Straits of Fuca do they?

A. Yes, sir. They come from the main strait in front of us. After they have passed Victoria they pass all through those little passes.

Q. Are there any trap nets on Lopez Island?

A. No, sir; there is one on San Juan Island.

Q. Whereabouts is it on San Juan Island?

A. It is right in front of where the soldiers had their building.

Q. You mean up toward Friday Harbor?

A. No. Friday Harbor is way back. It is straight south from Friday Harbor.

Q. Does it face the same way your nets do? Is it in the main strait?

A. Yes, sir. It faces the southeast point of San Juan Island.



Q. Do they get many fish in the trap?

A. Yes, sir; they caught 17,000 day before yesterday.

Q. How many -- do they keep getting so many?

A. Sometimes less, and all the way up to that.

Q. Does that hurt your fishing any?

A. I don't know; it seems to, the way we are fishing. We caught the fish earlier last year right along, but this year we did not catch any until the big run came. He has been catching them for the last 3 weeks.

Q. He caught them before you did?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. He caught them from the first of July?

A. About the middle of July.

Q. Now, are there any other traps that you know of about there?

A. No; not that I know of. They say there are some on the west and north side of San Juan, but I never have been there.

Q. Have you ever been over on Lummi Island? Do you know whether there are any traps there or not?

A. It is said there are 2 or 3 there.

Q. How long has this man had his trap on San Juan Island?

A. About a month.

Q. This is his first year?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. How long has the cannery been at Friday Harbor?

A. It has been there a year; this is the second year.

Q. Do you know how many cases they put up last year?

A. No, sir.

Q. Where does the Lydia Thompson run, to Friday Harbor?

A. Yes, sir; she runs to Friday Harbor and all through there. She stops at Richardson.

Q. How often does she run?

A. Every other day, from here.

Q. Is there any place to sleep at Friday Harbor?

A. Yes, sir; there is a hotel there. It is quite a little town.

Q. Have you ever been to Point Roberts?

A. I was there about 8 years ago.

Q. The Indians are using the same nets there that you are using on the reefs, but in very shallow water. Are there other places where the Indians fish around those islands?

A. On Lopez?

Q. Well, yes; do they fish anywhere else on Lopez Island?

A. Yes, they fish on the east point, at the southeast point.

Q. Anywhere else on Lopez Island?

A. No, sir.

Q. Do they fish on San Juan Island?

A. I don't know; I heard there was some fishing there, but am not sure of it.

Q. On Orcas Island?

A. No. There is some on Stewarts Island.

Q. Did you ever fish along Port Angeles or Dungeness?

A. No, sir.

Q. How large are the sockeye that you get?

A. The smallest is about 5 lbs., up to 12 or 13 and 14.

Q. Are they mixed; the different sizes mixed together?

A. Yes, but they are all up to 10 lbs. generally. Cannot find much difference in them, but you can find some few of them awful small, about 5 lbs., but the most of them weigh about 10 lbs. They are all about the same size when the big run comes.

Q. How do you get them up to Friday Harbor do they send a boat down?

A. Yes, sir; the steamer takes them.

Q. They give you over 15 cents for them there?

A. We are getting 10 cents for them.

Q. They are paying 15 to 25 cents on the Fraser River.

A. Yes, sir. It is pretty hard to make a raise there with only one cannery. There was a boat came over there from there to us and were going to buy fish for 8 cents, and he raised it 2 cents.

Q. What would you catch, in a fair catch, per day, in your fishing?

A. Last year we were catching from 3,000 to 4,000.

Q. A day?

A. Yes, in about 1/4 of a tide.

Q. You fish in certain stages of the tide?

A. Yes, sir. We catch them when the tide is going out, and they are running against the tide, and they get in the bag of the net.

Q. How square is your net?

A. It is 30 feet square where we stand to watch the fish, and it is about 25 feet long and about 25 feet wide on the other end. It is wider in one end than the other.

Q. How long do you leave your net down at a time before you lift it?

A. That is hard to tell you; it is just according to the salmon run. We can see them, and we will haul up may be 300 in one minute sometimes, and perhaps could catch 300 at a time.

Q. Are sockeyes just as abundant every year, only not with the same steadiness?

A. It has been that way for the last 4 years. The time I was at Fraser River about 8 or 9 years ago, it was 4 years that you could not catch hardly any salmon. When I was pulling a boat on the Fraser, and would only get 10 or 30 a day, and fished all day and all night.

Q. You were drifting then?

A. Yes, sir.



Q. You dont see much difference in your way, year after year here?

A. I have not seen much difference for the last 6 years that we have been fishing. Since then we have been having pretty good luck right along. Last year we had a good run.

Q. On the Fraser River they say they have 2 good years and 2 bad years; you dont have that here?

A. Because you know there is so many traps at Point Roberts; that spoils them in the river. They used to have it heavy. But lately, since we had 3 bad years on Lopez, we did not catch any, but ever since that we have had lots of fish.

Q. Where did you sell your fish before the cannery was established?

A. We used to peddle them.

Q. The silver salmon sell as well as the sockeye; are they as good?

A. Yes, sir. We got the same price last year.

Q. How large are they?

A. They are the same size; the big ones are bigger.

Q. Who owns the cannery at Friday Harbor?

A. I dont know his name.

Q. Do you get the dog salmon there ever?

A. The dog salmon run there, but we had no use for them last year and did not try to catch them.

Q. And the humpback?

A. The humpback runs in there heavy.

Q. At what time do they come in there?

A. It will start about the 14th of August we begin to get dog.

Q. Do you see any tyee there at all?

A. Yes, we used to catch a few tyee; under 30 fish; never had any luck with them.

Q. Are the different kinds of fish always separate there, or do some 2 or 3 kinds run together?

A. No; they generally run separate, but the sockeyes, about the time they stop running, will run with the humpbacks, about the 10th of August.

Q. How long have the Indians been fishing on the point where you are now? How many years; a good many?

A. They have been fishing ever since there

was Indians on the island. You can see the clam shells there 10 feet deep where they have been living there.

Q. What do they do with the clams they get on that island?

A. They used to cook them in the olden times, but they dont use them now.

Q. Why not; too many salmon?

A. We dont use the salmon either very much nowadays.

Q. Dont you smoke some salmon?

A. We smoke some.

Q. What do you use in the way of meat in the winter? Do you use much meat?

A. Not much.

Q. Dont you fish for halibut?

A. Yes, we fish for halibut.

Q. What do you use, this single hook and line?

A. We use 8 hooks -- wooden hooks.

Q. Like those up there (pointing)?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Why do you use that kind of a hook?

A. I dont know. It has been made for the

Indians to fish with and they stick to it. We use a certain kind of bait you know.

Q. What do you use for bait?

A. We use tom cods and devil fish.

Q. How do you catch the devil fish?

A. Spear them out of rocks -- use a long pole about 20 feet long.

Q. How big do you get them there?

A. Oh, we get them all sizes.

Q. Do you do any cod fishing there?

A. A few ling cods.

Q. What do you do with those, bring them over here?

A. No, we eat them.

Q. Do you prepare them in any way?

A. No, we eat them fresh.

Q. Do you hear anything about the fishing at Point Roberts now?

A. No, sir. We got some letters from there, but they did not say how many fish they had caught.

Q. Did not tell you what luck they were having?

A. No, sir.

Q. What do they say about the pound nets,

anything?

A. No. There was a fisherman came from there about 2 weeks ago and said the fish were boiling over there -- the Indians did not catch any.

Q. Those traps ruin their fishing?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Are they doing anything about it?

A. They have been trying. They took it in court, but I guess they lost.

Q. Is not there a treaty that gives you a right to that fishing?

A. Yes, but they are cranky fellows and you cannot trust them. They are like the fellow that is trying to knock us out. He is an Indian citizen.

Q. You are all citizens?

A. No.

Q. Why is he a citizen any more than you are?

A. He has got land.

Q. Where is his land, there?

A. Yes; it is on Guemes Island.

Q. Is there anything else you fish for over there besides the fish you have told us



about. Any other kind of fishing you do -- fish for black cod?

A. No. Fish for rock cod.

Q. What do you do with that?

A. Eat them.

Q. Dont sell them?

A. No.

Q. What island do you live on?

A. Fidalgo.

Q. Is there a reservation on Fidalgo?

A. Yes, sir. We were living with this fellow, right close by him, and this man here used to help him pay taxes when he first took up that land, and he did not like his neighbors and kept making a fuss with them, and they all had to leave; and after we came over here fishing, he came and wanted to do the same as he did before, and went right to work with his meanness and tried to knock us out. We could not stand it; we have tried it ever since the first of July, and he found out we were coming over here, and he wanted to take his net up, and we told him we would wait until we found out what was right.

Q. How many men are in a canoe?

A. 6 and 8 in 2 canoes. 3 men to a canoe.

Q. When you catch 2,000 or 3,000 salmon what do you do with them?

A. We have canoes ready to put them in.

Q. How big is this trap net on San Juan Island?

A. I have never been over there -- just heard of it -- I don't know how long it is. I can see it quite a ways, but never had time to take a look at it. They say it is a good place for the trap. They catch every fish that comes along.

Q. What sort of mesh do you use in your nets?

A. It is about 4 fingers long.

Q. That is extended?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. The width of 4 fingers?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. You make these nets?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. What are they made of, cotton?

A. They are made of -- I guess it is cotton.

At Point Roberts they use coarser than we do.

Q. Do you tar your nets?

A. No. We have one tarred, but it is awfully hard on -- where we have to use one and keep changing, you put tar on them and it takes the skin all off the finger nails.

Q. How does your net set, like a bowl?

A. No; it sets flat, one end down and the other end up, and when the salmon run in we just lift one end up and pull them in.

Q. Is one end of your net up even with the boat?

A. No, it is all under water.

Q. When you lift one end up why don't the salmon go out the other end?

A. As soon as they see a man standing up there, they run down against the net.

Q. But you have one end higher than the other end?

A. Yes, sir; it sets hanging in the water.

Q. Both boats are in the channel, one each side of the channel?

A. Yes, sir; just on each side of the net.

Q. So the net is between your boat and the channel is between your boat?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. You pull your boats together when you fish up the net?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Which side is up? You have pretty clear water where you fish?

A. Oh, yes, but we had bad water this year from the flood and it got awfully dirty. It has just been getting clear again for a week or so.

Q. From what river did you get the flood?

A. I think we got it from the Natsook?, and the Fraser, and from the Skagit. I dont believe much comes from the Skagit River, however.

JUDGE JAMES G. SWAN, PORT TOWNSEND, WASH.

AUGUST 1, 1895.

(Interviewed by Wm. Wakeham and Richard Rathbun).

Q. On this side the principal point of controversy is with respect to the salmon fishery, so far as it interests the two countries. Now, the great river, the greatest piece of salt water which influences the movements of the salmon in this region is the Fraser River. Of course there are other smaller rivers, but that empties near the boundary line. Now, the only extensive American fishery that has been for salmon is Point Roberts. Of course they are now building some traps on Lummi Island and some on San Juan Island; so that our main point of inquiry is directed to that subject. Now, the halibut fishery is somewhat important in here, and greater importance farther north, but they seem rather to need development than protection at the present time?

A. Yes, sir; particularly the halibut



fishery, that wants to be developed, not protected here.

Q. Nevertheless we are making inquiries about it and getting information on the subject, but the principal point of inquiry is with regard to the salmon. We have been on the Fraser River and we know what they are doing there and the fish they take there, etc., etc., We have been at Point Roberts; we have been at Whatcom; at Seattle, and at Victoria and Nanaimo. Now, we have come here. Now, besides finding out what fisheries are conducted, its extent, etc., we are trying to get at the habits of the fish, because those must be ascertained. You cannot simply go to the fishery and see men catching fish in one place, and from your observations there come to definite conclusions; you must know the relations of the movements of the fish to the fishing region, and for that reason we are getting all the information we can about the movements of the salmon, and altogether collecting what information we can about all the fisheries here. Our time is somewhat limited -- Dr. Wakeham has some men to see on his way home.

A. I made a report to Prof. Baird sometime ago about the salmon in Becher Bay. Some parties here went down there and started a cannery and they caught the fish when they first came in from the ocean and they canned them there. Then they went up here toward the Fraser River and started in, and there was a marked difference in the flavor; and I sent some on and Prof. Baird sent some to New York to Mr. Blackford, and Mr. Blackford, without knowing anything about what was brought in, he just opened the can, and it was chopped up some, and he condemned it, but afterwards when he found out, he found that the flavor of that fish was superior. Mr. Goode had tried it and found quite a ~~big~~ difference in it, showing that the fish when they come in the ocean first are in better condition than when they get up into fresh water.

Q. About how long ago was that?

A. I dont recollect now, but I can find out and let you know before you leave here.

Q. The difference in the method of fishing on the two sides is great. Now, the State of Washington has certain laws regulating the

salmon fishery in Puget Sound. Now, when they began fishing at Point Roberts they put in their nets as they pleased without reference to the law, and the Fish Commissioner brought the case before the court and it was decided in the court at Whatcom - State court - that the law stating the waters to be those of Puget Sound to which the regulations related, that they did not apply to the northern waters of the State; that Puget Sound was only Puget Sound properly so called, so that the northern part of the State is working without any regulations whatever.

A. That is the way that court decided the law?

Q. Yes, Judge Winn.

A. Well, that was a very smart thing, when it was by act of Congress all called Puget Sound; and it is known as the jurisdiction of Puget Sound, and it is known so legally and in the commercial houses, and the idea of a judge sitting in Whatcom should say it only meant that little place called Puget Sound!

Q. Judge Hanford did not render a decision on it, but he intimated that if it came up before

him he would call the whole thing Puget Sound.

A. Congress passed a law making all the waters that enter into the Straits of Fuca all Puget Sound, and we call the district Puget Sound. In making my papers out I call the district Puget Sound, Northern Division. He did not certainly have a knowledge of the question at all. He went quibbling about the word Puget Sound, and I suppose there was no one before him to call his attention that Congress made this all Puget Sound by an act.

Q. How long ago did Congress make it so, do you know?

A. No, I don't remember just now.

Q. In what sort of an act would that be; customs act?

A. I think it came in with the act about naming Mt. Rainier, and naming the different places -- geographical names. But the fact is that when everybody, the merchants, loggers, the lumbermen and all spoke about Puget Sound coming up here, and it gradually became known in San Francisco as the whole system of water, Puget Sound; and then they made the customs district the district of Puget Sound, and of

course that does not mean that little bit of water around Olympia as Puget Sound; it is the district of Puget Sound. The law was intended to cover the whole of these waters.

Q. Well, now, Judge Swan, suppose we go into a little of the movements of the fish; what other good fishermen are there here besides Cates?

A. Oh, there are none here. 'Cates is the man that Mr. Alexander and Mr. Townsend know

Q. Now, about the salmon; as we understand it the salmon which come through the Straits of Fuca are the quinnat -- how do you call that here

A. Quinnat we call it.

Q. The humpback, the 'dog salmon, the silver salmon, the steelhead and the sockeye. Now, the sockeye salmon; that you say does not occur in this immediate vicinity?

A. No. That goes on the other side of the Straits of Fuca -- goes up through the islands to the Fraser River.

Q. One of our witnesses lately, a man of a good deal of experience -- I think it was Capt. Gaudin, who said that the sockeye came in at Cape Flattery and came up that shore and then



crossed over. Do you know Capt. Gaudin?

A. No.

Q. He is the agent of the Department of Marine and Fisheries in Victoria.

A. I have lived about 17 years off and on at Neah Bay, and I dont remember anything about the sockeyes coming in there except occasionally but they are on the opposite side of the Straits, and they go into San Juan harbor and the Indians catch great quantities of them alongthat side.

Q. Where is San Juan Harbor?

A. Directly opposite Neah Bay.

Q. Now, the Americans know very little about the sockeye in the Straits?

A. Very little.

Q. And it would be only when they get into the San Juan Islands?

A. Yes; you will find what Cates told you is very reliable.

Q. Do you keep track at all of the fishery on the San Juan Islands?

A. No, sir. That is reported through the State Fish Commissioner, and I dont know anything about it. It is only a few years ago

that they started in canning salmon there. You know there is no rivers that they run up and they just catch them as they are going up the Fraser River. You see the salmon go circling around; they dont go straight from the ocean up into the Fraser River.

Q. Is there anybody here who would know about the fishing in detail in the San Juan Islands?

A. No, I dont know of any one. I suppose Joe Cates could tell you better than I could, because he is in the business, and I have not been particularly interested in the San Juan region. We want, actually, 2 fish commissioners; one for the Columbia River and one for Puget Sound. The fish on the Columbia River are altogether different from what they are here. They are big salmon and sturgeon, and here we have salt water fish, and the rules that should govern this place are entirely different from the rules that should govern the Columbia River. We have only one State Commissioner and he knows about the salmon on the Columbia River, but he does not know any

thing about the fish here at all from experience.

Q. Now, the quinnat salmon that is common, as we understand it, most of the year?

A. Yes, that is around the Columbia River.

Q. You have it here?

A. Yes, but it is not so plentiful and does not grow so large.

Q. Where do the quinnat salmon spend their winter, that belong in this region?

A. Well, I have come to the conclusion from the observations I made on the Albatross that they go down into the deep water in the ocean off the mouth of the Columbia River. We dredged down there in 800 fathoms of water and we got up all sorts of food that salmon will fatten on, such as shrimps, and a lot of these salt fish that are very flabby when they come to the surface, but they are all nice eating all the same. Anything we caught I would have it cooked to try it, and they were all good eating. It made the Doctor sick, and he said "I believe you would have the Devil cooked and serve his broth. Jordan has said even Chinamen would not eat the black cod, but when he got up here he found they were good. They begin at Cape

Flattery and they go on increasing in richness clear up north, and around Queen Charlotte Islands it is astonishing to see how fat those fish are and how much grease they get out of them. Persons who are troubled with dyspepsia they can eat those fish that cannot eat salmon or mackerel, but they can eat the black cod, and the grease does not distress them. Some druggists in Victoria made some experiments about its oil and they found it was quite equal to cod liver oil.

Q. Now, returning to the quinnat, that is all right for the Columbia River, finding its feeding grounds out there, but with regard to the fish in the Straits of Fuca, do they go out to sea in the same way and to the same extent off Cape Flattery? Finding them here so much of the year, is it not possible that they find a part of their winter feeding grounds in the Straits of Fuca?

A. No. But you will get them here all winter long, but not in quantities. I am satisfied in my mind that the Columbia River salmon, when they go up from the river, go into this deep water, and there they feed on these

banks right at the edge of the coast. They are not a surface fish in the ocean, and when they come out in the spring they are in their best condition -- just as fat as they can be; and it has been a wonder. In our dredging at the mouth of the Columbia River Captain Tanner said it was a reasonable theory that they go down in the region where there is plenty of food for them and stay there and get just as fat as they can be.

Q. You think that the quinnat go out beyond the Cape here just the same as they do at the mouth of the Columbia River? You think they live in winter on the bottom at the mouth of the Straits of Fuca?

A. I think so, but, mind, that is only a theory. The best condition of those fish is when they first come in from the ocean invariably.

Q. When do they first come in here?

A. In the Columbia River they come in in April and May. They are here pretty much all winter, but they don't go up the rivers now. The Indians will catch them with trolls pretty much every month in the year, but they are not

in quantities?

Q. When do you find them most abundant here?

A. About the time they ascend the rivers, when they get together in schools, but in the winter they seem to be just going around, single ones, and I have seen them caught off the wharves here. People go down there and they would pull them in just any way, and I have seen cod fish caught in immense quantities here.

Q. Are the winter quinnat in good condition in the winter?

A. Oh, yes; all the fish you get here are good. In fact, the fish caught in this bay are good at any time of the year, for they have never been in fresh water.

Wakeham:- Take the case of the Columbia River fish, they go straight to the ocean, but here the fish find deep water and no doubt the same food close at hand without going out to sea, would not that account for their presence here during the winter?

A. I think so, because they get food here. I know that when they catch them you will find them full of shrimp, showing that the salmon

feed on shrimp, but in the Columbia River you dont find anything in the salmon, when in fresh water.

Q. What rivers do they go up in Puget Sound?

A. Oh, the different kinds of fish go up every creek.

Q. Do the quinnat go up small streams?

A. No; it is only the large rivers like the Columbia; the larger the river the bigger the fish. The Columbia and Fraser have the finest salmon. In these smaller streams they have small fish, until you get down to the dog salmon, which will go up into every little brook. The quinnat may run into the White River around Seattle, but I dont know about it. They have the silver salmon and the humpback, but I dont think the quinnat go up the rivers of the Sound, except occasionally. It is strictly speaking a Columbia River fish, the same as the sockeye is the Fraser River fish.

Q. Of course the quinnat becomes more abundant way north again?

A. Oh, yes, and they are large fish up there, what they call the king fish, up on the

Yukon and those waters; it grows to an enormous size. The way I have seen fish in Alaska is astonishing -- it is just perfectly astonishing.

Q. What is the way of getting to Neah Bay from here.

A. There is a boat goes down every other day -- 3 times a week. It goes down tomorrow. You can stay there a little while. She does not stop there over an hour. You can go right to the agency there and get very good accommodations there.

Q. What sizes do the quinnat grow to? What is the range in size?

A. Oh, well; they go all the way from 20 lbs. -- 15 or 20 -- to 70 lbs.

Q: Those larger sizes are not common I suppose?

A. Very seldom. I have seen salmon when I first came into the country in 1852 on the Columbia River that dressed 100 lbs., but those big fellows are all played out now; they dont give them a chance to live long enough.

Q. But they would average what in this region?

A. Oh, 30 or 40 lbs. I guess. Cates can



give you a better idea than I can because he has handled so many of them.

Q. Well, the food of the salmon here in the salt water of Puget Sound -- of the quinnat; you spoke of their eating the shrimps in enormous quantities; do they eat other things?

A. Yes; they eat herring, and when the herring are plentiful then you will see these salmon running in and chasing them all around. That is the way the Indians catch them, they bait their hooks with herring and the salmon go and bite the hooks, showing that is a part of their food, and then the salmon become in turn food for the seals.

Q. Now, the humpback? What is the general movements of the humpback through the Straits of Fuca; can you designate it?

A. Well, no, I cannot, because it is so long since my attention has been called to fish that I would not like to make any definite statement, but Cates can give you the information.

Q. Now, about the humpback; they go into what sort of streams?

A. Why, they are around here in the bay.

The dog salmon run up the streams, but Jordan made a mistake about the dog salmon. What he calls red? salmon is what the Indians and all the old settlers know as dog salmon, but he has something else for dog salmon. *Onchorynchus kita* is what we call dog salmon.

Q. You have had no experience at all with the salmon in the rivers?

A. No. I have no personal experience about it, but my impression is, from the information I have gotten, that the yearly run out to sea; and the old ones that have been spawning become exhausted, and those are the runs that are sick by butting themselves attempting to jump over falls. There is lots of them do get to the sea, there is no question about that.

Q. That would be the quinnat?

A. Yes, I think they are about the same. I think Mewatt, on the Fraser River, told me he had marked them -- they fitted some little copper tags in their tails -- and they went off and afterwards they caught some of them.

Q. Is anything said about the decrease of salmon? Are they as abundant in this region as they used to be?

A. Well, some years more than others.

Q. I mean as a whole?

A. I dont know as there is any particular decrease. There has been an enormous increase of the canneries and of course there are more fish put up, and there is an enormous quantity eaten by these seals, hair and fur seal; and sea lions have destroyed an equal lot. They dont take a salmon and eat it up, but they will go along and make a nip at the salmon and then go along and get another one, and they do the same with the cod fish in Bering Sea. Capt. Tanner was explaining that to me, and then he says these cod fish go off and hide under the kelp, and the people said they were sick and not fit to eat, but really they were the fish that had been bitten by the seals.

Q. What fishery is carried on for the salmon along the Straits of Fuca?

A. Well, there is nothing carried on excepting Indians and these market fishermen.

Q. And where do the Indians fish for salmon?

A. Along off the mouth of the Klwha below

Port Angeles, and then there is a run of salmon go up the Dungeness River.

Q. Do they fish for salmon around Cape Flattery and Neah Bay?

A. Oh, yes; they get a great many of them. These steelheads Jordan puts down here under the head of trout. Now, that little salmon that runs into Quinalt? are the finest kind of salmon. Now, that little fish that runs into Quinalt ? River and down Neah Bay; ~~xx~~ the same fish that is so fat in the Quinalt? is not so fat in Neah Bay, but just across the Straits at a place called Patchina? they are ~~xxx~~ just as fat as they are at Quinalt?. The salmon that they call the red salmon is the salmon that the Indians here and white all call the dog salmon.

Q. That is to say, the exterior color is reddish?

A. Yes, great blotches.

Q. In flesh it is not as red as the sockeye is it?

A. Oh, no; it is a white fish; the flesh is quite white. It is named dog fish on account of its teeth. You will find some

remarkable looking jaw bones they say up the rivers where these fish have died. I never could understand why Mr. Jordan should have taken Russian names in naming fish instead of Latin names. Now, nobody knows Russian, but most all scientists understand Latin terms. The name *Gorbusca* means humpback, and the English people call it the humpback salmon or dog salmon. Now, they dont call it the dog salmon. The *Onchorynchus kita* is the one they call the dog salmon here.

Q. This cannery at Port Angeles is not finished yet is it?

A. Oh, no; they have not commenced operations yet. They are going to make a pretty large place of it I think. I saw a lot of stuff gowing down, machinery, etc.

Q. Where do they intend to get their fish from?

A. That I dont knew. I have not seen any of them at all. This thing has been tried before of canning salmon in the Straits and it was a failure.

Q. Where did they try it?

A. At Clallam Bay. Packers from Astoria.

Q. Why was it a failure?

A. There was not fish enough, and then the fish were not first quality. A firm in Victoria were the agents, and they had some interest in the concern, and the stuff that was shipped to London did not take well, and for that reason I don't have much faith in this cannery at Port Angeles until I see some of their work. It might do if they got enough, but you see fish go over on the Vancouver side. They could go to Becher Bay and get the sockeye salmon and bring them over across, and I guess that is what they intend to do.

Q. Well, they could not fish there; they had no rights there?

A. No; but they would get a lot of Indians to go in there and fish and buy the fish from the Indians. That is the way it would be done.

Q. Are many fish sold fresh in this region?

A. A great many of them. For local use here. Local use in all the towns on the Sound. The fact is, people are getting to eat more fish than they used to.

Q. There is no firm here which collects

salmon, freezing them or iceing them to ship?

A. No; that is done in Seattle. Yes, Cates sends fish up to them, and they do the finishing there, but as soon as they get a railroad here they will do all that here and save sending them up the Sound.

Q. What do they do with the dog salmon in the Columbia River?

A. I dont know, I am sure.

Q. It is a great question in regard to the movements of the salmon, asto what influence the fishing on Point Roberts might have with the Fraser River. I suppose that is something you would have no idea of?

A. No. If I was employed as an agent to get that kind of information I would make it my business to find out.

Q. Have you any opinion about the practice of throwing offal in the rivers?

A. I dont know anything about it. I dont know whether they throw it in the river or use it on the land, or what they do with it. I know in the sea the cod fishing banks, they are very particular about not throwing their offal

everboard where they are fishing. They would always move off the bank where they were fishing. They dont catch the fish right in at Astoria where the canneries are, but catch them at Sand Island and Bakers Bay, so I dont know as the offal would have any effect on the fishing, but still I dont know anything about it, and it is a thing I never heard any of those old fishermen express an opinion on.

Q. The methods employed for catching the salmon in this region -- we know about the traps and where they are located, and then we know the Indians use their style, of net, and we know that purse seines are used to a slight extent. Is there any other method of fishing for salmon employed?

A. Wheels.

Q. No; I mean outside; not in the Columbia River?

A. Oh, well; they catch them trolling.

Q. Do they catch them trolling for the market?

A. Catch them for the market here.

Q. That would be the spring salmon, quinnat

A. Yes, or any salmon when there is any



other around; and they bait their hooks with herring, showing that the salmon will eat a herring.

Q. Is there any spearing done in the salt water, of salmon?

A. Not that I know of. You see the water is generally too deep for spearing. They use the spears in the rivers and small streams, but down in the Straits the water is too deep, and, as Cates says, the water is very clear and they see the net.

Q. Do they use the net for drifting in salt water at all?

A. Well, they have used it down below, but to what extent I dont know. I know there is the same prejudice of Joe Cates', about the water being too clear.

Q. What fishes of importance are there here outside of salmon?

A. Well, there is the black cod. They are not so plentiful down in the Straits as they are around Queen Charlotte Islands, and there are millions of them there, and if they paid attention to it they could make a business of it. When I went up to the Queen Charlotte

Islands I got my first lot, which was the first merchantable lot ever brought into Victoria.

I split it the same as they split cod fish, down the belly, but those British fellows around Victoria, they split it the same as you would split the salmon, the head and all; while the black cod, the head is very oily and gets rancid very soon; and I told Mr. Sanders, now, if you will take and cut the heads off the black cod and split them down the belly the same as a regular cod fish you will find they will keep better and give better satisfaction. Oh, well, he says, you will lose so much weight in the head unless you leave it on. Yes, I says, you will lose the whole. Mr. Rithet told him the same thing, and he says people don't want to buy bones or scales, but if you will cut those ungainly heads off you will sell the fish better but they would not do it, and the consequence is they could not get them on the market. But those I put up and sent to Washington to Prof. Baird, they were fixed so they made a great time over them, and they made a very nice, neat package too, and the meat was just as white as snow and did not get rusty at all; but you leave

the heads on and in a little while they will get as rusty as can be.

Q. What is the proper way of curing them; simply in salt?

A. Just salt. I cured mine at Queen Charlotte Islands with dry salt. I had no other thing. I was going to put them in pickle as I would mackerel and I thought that was the proper way, but I had no barrels and the only thing I could do was to put them in boxes with dry salt, and the cooper predicted they would not keep to get down to Victoria, and when they did get to Victoria I said to him, there I want to get your cooper now to put those fish into kits or barrels; well, he says, let's look at them. So we looked at them, and the cooper says, those fish will do to go all over the world. He did not want to do anything with them. And that was found out just by a simple matter of accident, but they are a terrible thing to take salt, but when they are well salted they will keep to go all over the world.

Q. You think they should be cut through the belly?

A. Yes, I think so; just like a cod fish,

and take the back bone out and the head off, and the fish ~~xxx~~ will not get rancid. Those people over there have made a mistake. They would split the head and all, and leave the head on, and in a little while they would be rancid, and they had to throw them away. If I had had my own way with it I should have put them in pickle the same as you do mackerel, but I am satisfied that dry salting is just as good, and probably better, because you can transport it easier.